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OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM

Arizona Consumers Council

A Voice for Consumers Since 1966

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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

October 2011

Arizona Corporation Commission

1200 W. Washington Street

Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: ~~Arizona Public Service rate case - E-01345A-11-0063 &~~
Southwest Gas rate case - G-01551A-10-0458

Dear Chairman Pierce and Commissioners,

As you are aware, the Arizona Consumers Council has served as an advocate for consumers in Arizona for the past 45 years. Among other issues, we have effectively advocated for energy efficiency, renewable energy and the establishment of the Residential Utility Consumer Office (RUCO).

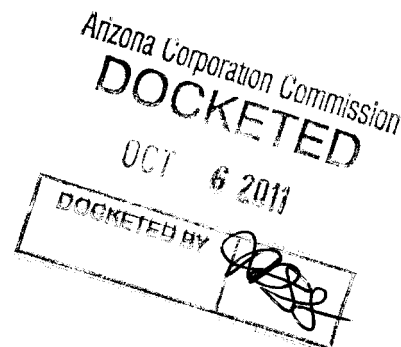
In order to best advance the interests of consumers in the upcoming Arizona Public Service and Southwest Gas rate cases, we highly recommend incorporating a decoupling policy. A decoupling policy should have the utilities focus on saving energy which in turn will save consumers money.

We thank you for your attention to our recommendation.

On behalf of the Arizona Consumers Council Board,

Al Sterman

Vice-President



League of Women Voters of Arizona

4423 N 24th Street - Suite 500

Phoenix, AZ 85016

Phone: 480-966-9031

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October 6, 2011

Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Arizona Public Service rate case - E-01345A-11-0063 &
Southwest Gas rate case - G-01551A-10-0458

Dear Chairman Pierce and other members of the Arizona Corporation Commission,

As you are likely aware, the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Arizona is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. The LWV of Arizona influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.

The LWV, in partnership with public health and environmental organizations, are currently asking members of Congress, other elected officials, key community leaders and the public to make the "Clean Air Promise."

The Clean Air Promise states "I PROMISE to protect America's children and families from dangerous air pollution. Because toxics and pollutants such as mercury, smog, carbon, and soot, cause thousands of hospital visits, asthma attacks, and even deaths, I will support clean air policies and other protections that scientists and public health experts have recommended to the EPA to safeguard our air quality."

The LWV of Arizona and its members across the state, particularly those that reside in the areas serviced by Arizona Public Service and Southwest Gas, urge each of you to make the "Clean Air Promise." One immediate way to demonstrate your commitment to this pledge is to support energy efficiency and a strong decoupling policy to provide the aforementioned utilities with the incentive to use less, not more energy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Klein,
President, League of Women Voters of Arizona

Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer,
1st VP, League of Women Voters of Arizona

Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

October 4, 2011

RE:

Arizona Public Service rate case - E-01345A-11-0063 &
Southwest Gas rate case - G-01551A-10-0458

Dear Members of the Arizona Corporation Commission,

As you are aware, **Physicians for Social Responsibility in Arizona** is the medical and public health voice working to stop degradation of the environment in our state.

On behalf of our members across the state, particularly those that are Arizona Public Service (APS) and/or Southwest Gas (SW Gas) customers, I am writing to urge you include a strong policy on decoupling in those rate cases.

I know you are aware that utilities have an incentive to encourage the use of more energy, as that enables their profits to increase. This system really isn't beneficial to the utilities who end up investing in costly capital expenditures and it certainly isn't beneficial to the health of Arizonans who end up breathing more polluted air, which is linked to respiratory illnesses.

The burning of coal, oil, and natural gas produces not only greenhouse gases, but also a range of harmful air pollutants, including ozone, airborne particulates, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides. Exposure to these pollutants causes a number of adverse health effects ranging from shortness of breath and coughing to lung cancer and premature death. As emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise, so too will emissions of these harmful air pollutants. Increasing temperatures will further worsen air quality problems across the United States. Hotter temperatures will speed the formation of ground-level ozone, the main component of smog. Smog exposure damages the lungs and can lead to the development and aggravation of chronic lung diseases, such as asthma. Higher temperatures, combined with elevated carbon dioxide levels, may also increase the concentration of natural air pollutants, such as pollen, which will exacerbate the symptoms of people with allergies. Additionally, as people struggle to adapt to warmer temperatures, increased energy use to power air conditioners on hot days would put even greater amounts of pollutants into the air.

Therefore, I urge you include a strong policy on decoupling in those rate cases and to further encourage strong measure to increase energy efficiency among energy users throughout Arizona. Thank you.



Barbara H. Warren, MD, MPH, FACP
Arizona Coordinator, Physicians for Social Responsibility